

RECOGNIZING TEACHERS AND
STAFF OF STAGECOACH ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the teachers and staff at Stagecoach Elementary School in Cabot, Arkansas for going above and beyond for their students during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19.

They have adapted their teaching process to ensure they are meeting the academic needs of their students, but they are also finding creative ways to maintain relationships with students, their families, and the community.

The teachers and staff have gone above and beyond by delivering groceries to families in need, continuing to offer breakfast and lunch for their students, providing supplies like laptops to families who may not have the necessary equipment for at-home learning, and conducting parades throughout the student's neighborhoods to lift spirits, and bring the community together.

This initiative has shined a light on how adapting to the situation at hand and responding with positivity can unite a community even amidst a public health crisis.

I congratulate the teachers and staff at Stagecoach Elementary School for their creative way of continuing education for Arkansas students and for ending the year on a strong note.

RECOGNIZING ALLAN HURSIG, THE
BEARDED BAKER OF TX-22

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, we often tell our children that, when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. When life gave Allan Hursig lemons, he made cookies and created a thriving business.

After being "unfortunately, but fortunately laid off" from his job as an oil and gas landman, Mr. Hursig turned to baking as a hobby. His elaborately decorated cookies found fame on the Internet, and he launched The Bearded Baker in 2016 to take his hobby to the next level.

Mr. Hursig's sweet treats garnered so much popularity that he even competed on the Food Network's "Christmas Cookie Challenge."

Mr. Hursig is living proof of that creativity, artistry and perseverance are tools for success in our great nation. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, he has made our community very proud.

WELCOME KITTRIDGE CHARLES &
ADLER ELNORA LOPATA-PAGAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate State Representative Kristy Pagan and Karl Lopata of Canton, Michigan, on the birth of their babies, Kittridge Charles and Adler Elnora Lopata-Pagan. Kittridge Charles was born on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20, 2020, weighing six pounds and fourteen ounces and measuring in at 19.7 inches long. Adler Elnora was born on January 21, 2020, weighing five pounds and twelve ounces and measuring in at 18.9 inches long. Kittridge and Adler were born at Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital at the University of Michigan.

I would also like to congratulate Kittridge and Adler's grandparents, Nick and Kathy Pagan of Plymouth, Michigan, and Karl and Judy Lopata of Canton, Michigan, as well as aunts and uncles Jenna and Bill Pagan-DeYoung of Kalamazoo, Michigan (cousin Evelyn Pagan-DeYoung, cousin Elliot Pagan-DeYoung), Kimberly Pagan of Arlington, Virginia, and K.C. Lopata of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome the new loves and lights of their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE NET ZERO REVIEW
ACT OF 2020

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Defense Net Zero Review Act of 2020, legislation that will refocus the Defense Department's (DoD's) efforts on Net Zero initiatives and require the Secretary to establish the first integrated master plan for achieving Net Zero energy benchmarks.

The DoD consumes more energy than any other federal agency, spending nearly \$12 billion on energy in FY2017, approximately two percent of the Department's total budget. Since the early 2000s, the DoD has made commendable progress in implementing Net Zero projects. These initiatives have generally focused on efforts to produce more energy from renewable sources on installations, limit consumption of water in order to not deplete the local watershed, and reduce, reuse, and recover waste to prevent unnecessary additions to landfills.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, while progress has been made, it simply isn't enough. In fact, many of the energy benchmarks established by previous acts of Congress have never been achieved by the DoD, and many of the goals announced by senior DoD leaders over the past decade are no longer being pursued. To quote from the findings from a 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study—the most systemic review of Net Zero with the DoD—the Department has "not established an integrated net zero

strategy or policy for achieving Net Zero," and "none of the military departments have established Net Zero as a funded program". Further, the DoD has not fully identified the potential costs of implementing net zero initiatives, due at least in part to insufficiently defined statutory goals.

On the operational side of energy usage, DoD emissions for all military operations between 2001 and 2017 are estimated to be 766 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. The FY2017 Operational Energy Annual Report found that the Department used roughly 87 million barrels of fuel per year, which comes out to some 240,000 barrels per day. These findings paint a clear picture, that absent Congressional interest and oversight, pursuing and achieving Net Zero will not be prioritized in the way that it should be.

The legislation that I am introducing today will get us back on track with a wholesale review of Net Zero initiatives under the DoD. First, my bill commissions two studies from the Comptroller General of the United States—a follow-up to the 2016 study and a second examining options for increasing efficiency and resilience on the operational side of the DoD's energy usage—that will analyze the extent to which these types of initiatives have been implemented, and the associated costs, benefits, challenges, and opportunities that exist for moving forward. These studies also solicit new information from the DoD, including anticipated funding and infrastructure needs to get serious about achieving Net Zero, and options for achieving specific benchmarks. Once this information is at hand, my legislation requires the Secretary of the DoD to present Congress with a master plan outlining an integrated strategy for achieving these initiatives in a manner that continues to prioritize military readiness.

Importantly, Madam Speaker, my bill does not impose any arbitrary deadlines or requirements of the DoD. Rather, this legislation focuses on gathering the data we need to know what is feasible, what we'll need to get it done, and how much time it will take, so that Congress can make informed decisions in the future. This is the right way to move forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COVID-19
MEMORIAL QUILT ACT OF 2020

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the COVID-19 Memorial Quilt Act of 2020 to honor all the victims of this pandemic with a national memorial quilt.

The horrors of the COVID-19 pandemic have touched every corner of our country, wreaking unprecedented devastation on Americans' lives. As I introduce this legislation today, COVID-19 has infected at least two million Americans. Tragically, this disease has quickly robbed our country of at least 112,000 of our fellow citizens. We need to remember that these numbers are not just statistics: they are people. They are our moms, dads, children, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, religious leaders and fellow Americans who have been taken from us due to this pandemic.